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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/063,901	05/22/2002	Andrew Back	GEN-0319	4384

23413 7590 03/29/2005

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EXAMINER

CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/063,901

Applicant(s)

BACK ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Cuff

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20020722.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Markham et al.

Markham et al. shows, figure 2, (paragraph [0212]) an embodiment of a manufacturing process 30 similar to the PIPE-based system for the first facility 32A in FIG. 1, but with the bill of materials 102 in a bill of materials database 100 being explicitly shown. The bill of materials 102 is accessed by the control system 54 and is compared with the properties of incoming raw materials 34, identified by accessing a raw material database (not shown) or by obtaining information from other sources that is associated with the identification code 60 for the raw materials 34 obtained when an identification reader 50 reads identification means 44 on or associated with the raw materials 34. The bill of materials 102 may contain numerous fields associated with the process 36 and its intended product (not shown, parent part). Such fields may specify the recipe (approved materials, process conditions, amounts of materials to use, etc.) for the process 36, as well as the target properties 106 desired for one or more raw

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materials 34 (first and second child, each variation of acceptable material may have a different relationship with the final product, some materials don't have an effect and it would have the same relationship with different child parts) that may have varying material properties. In addition to specific values of target properties 106, acceptable ranges of properties may be specified in the acceptable range field 108 for one or more materials. Since properties away from the target values but still within the acceptable range may sometimes require adjustments in process conditions or in the amount or selection of other materials, an adjustments field or fields 110 may provide instructions for desired process modifications (providing and storing a revised BOM, first one still saved, remove and replace commands) to compensate for off-target properties of the raw materials 34 or for other temporary limitations in the process 36. The computer instructions and method of using the system are inherent in the above disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-7, 12-13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Markham et al. in view of Willing.

Markham et al. shows all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying the use of indicia or an ID on the parts.

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Willing teaches an apparatus for making ultrasonic markings on parts such as identifying numbers and/or other indicia to provide an indication of size, type, etc.

(column 1, lines 6-7)

Based on the teaching of Willing, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify to products of Markham et al. to incorporate identifying numbers and/or other indicia in order to provide an indication of size, type, etc.

Conclusion


3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hoskins et al. shows a system of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (703) 308-0610 or, after 4/13/05, (571) 272-6778. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski can be reached on (703) 308-5183. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 3/18/05
Michael Cuff
March 18, 2005